

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

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R 281347Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 148200

FOLLOWING SENT CANBERRA BANGKOK CINCPAC FROM SECSTATE
WASHDC 27 JUL 73:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 148200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GREEN'S INTERVIEW WITH UPI

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPRESENTS APPROVED DEPARTMENTAL PRESS GUIDANCE
CONCERNING AMBASSADOR GREEN'S REMARKS IN UPI INTERVIEW ON
SEATO:

QUESTION: AMBASSADOR GREEN IS QUOTED IN A UPI INTERVIEW FROM
CANBERRA AS SAYING THAT AN AUSTRALIAN PULLOUT FROM SEATO
COULD MEAN AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORGANIZATION. IS IT
TRUE THAT THE USG ANTICIPATES FUTURE TROUBLE IN MAINTAINING
SEATO?

ANSWER: NO. THE USG FULLY INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS SEATO
TREATY COMMITMENT AND WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE AUSTRAL-
IAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ABANDON ITS COMMITMENT. THE NEWS-
PAPER QUOTES OF THE UPI INTERVIEW DISTORT AMBASSADOR GREEN'S
COMMENTS AND FAIL TO PUT THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE QUES-

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TIONS POSED TO HIM. AMBASSADOR GREEN COMMENTED DURING THE

INTERVIEW THAT AUSTRALIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM SEATO COULD MAKE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT FOR US BUT AT NO TIME DID HE SAY THAT EITHER THE US OR AUSTRALIA WOULD LEAVE SEATO. HE IN FACT EMPHASIZED DURING THE INTERVIEW, AS INDEED HE HAS ON MANY OTHER OCCASIONS, THAT HE DID NOT THINK AUSTRALIA WAS GOING TO DROP OUT OF SEATO: 'I'VE NOT HEARD THAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO THAT - I DON'T THINK THEY ARE', HE SAID, 'THAT BEING SO, I WOULDN'T THINK THAT THERE WAS VERY MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING SEATO.'

2. QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN RAISED AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING TO DATE, BUT EMBASSIES MAY DRAW ON ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE IF QUERIED. ROGERS UNQUOTE
ROGERS

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